CLAIMS

1. A method for decoding a message transmitted in a wireless communication system supporting packet data transmission, wherein a packet is divided into a number of subpackets, the method comprising:

determining a set of hypotheses for decoding the message, wherein the set of hypotheses includes all combinations of available data rate and the number of subpackets;

using historical transmission information to reduce the set of hypotheses; and

decoding the message using each of the reduced set of hypotheses.

the storage medium. In the alternative, the storage medium may be integral to the processor. The processor and the storage medium may reside in an ASIC. The ASIC may reside in a user terminal. In the alternative, the processor and the storage medium may reside as discrete components in a user terminal.

[00140] The previous description of the disclosed embodiments is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make or use the present invention. Various modifications to these embodiments will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein.

[00141] **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**